

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

September 21, 1978

Memo For MR. PETER OLESON
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY
OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

SUBJECT: S&I Study on Intelligence Estimates

As you requested, I asked the appropriate staffers in the House Appropriations Committee for a copy of the memorandum which initiated subject study. They would not provide me with a copy of the memorandum, but they allowed me to copy from the memorandum. Attached is a direct quotation from a memorandum to Chairman Mahon dated July 25, 1978. Please treat with discretion. ✓




Graydon I. Lose

Enclosure

STAT: DIA
Mr. Al South, OASD(C)

STAT

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"The Committee directs that a study be made of the organizational structure and procedures used by the U.S. Government to produce National and Defense intelligence estimates of the military forces which constitute or may constitute in the future threats to the security of this country.

The study should include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following points: the identity of the agencies which contribute to the formulation of these estimates nationally and within the Department of Defense; the means by which conflicting estimates are reconciled, if in fact they are, both in the final documents and in the contributions of the various agencies to these documents; an analysis of the documentation upon which the agency contributions and the final estimates are based; the usefulness of these estimates; and the extent of the reliance placed upon them in the planning and programming for national defense.

In particular, the Committee would appreciate an assessment of the reliability and accuracy of the estimates of Soviet military capabilities presented in the annual Defense Posture Statements. Estimates of the number of Soviet tanks and artillery, force levels affecting the mutual and balanced force reduction (MBFR) talks, the size of the Soviet defense production base, and the magnitude of Soviet chemical warfare capability and of specific interest."



Approved For Release 2004/03/25 : CIA-RDP81M00980R003200040078-8

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